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(71) Applicant(s)

XaCCT Technologies Inc
(Incorporated in USA - Delaware)
Suite 105, 2855 Kifer Road, Santa Clara,
California 95051, United States of America

(72) Inventor(s)

Eran Wagner
Limor Schweltzer
Tal Givoly

(51) INT CL⁷

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(74) Agent and/or Address for Service

D Young & Co
21 New Fetter Lane, LONDON, EC4A 1DA,
United Kingdom

(54) Abstract Title

Network accounting and billing system and method

(57) In some embodiments, network traffic information is captured at network information sources. These sources provide detailed information about the network communications transactions at a network device. Importantly, different types of sources can provide different types of information. Gatherer devices gather the detailed information from the various information source devices and convert the information into standardized information. The gatherer devices can correlate the gathered information with account information for network transaction accounting. Manager devices manage the gatherer devices and store the gathered standardized information. The manager devices eliminate duplicate network information that may exist in the standardized information. The manager devices also consolidate the information. Importantly, the information stored by the manager devices represents the consolidated, account correlated, network transaction information that can be used for billing or network accounting. The system thereby provides a distributed network accounting and billing system.

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